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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
WESTERN ZONAL BENCH AT PUNE**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 02 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

Shri Ashutosh Kumar

...Applicant

VERSUS

Gujarat Fluorochemicals Ltd. & Ors.

...Respondents

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Through:



Dr. Surender Singh Hooda
Advocate for the Applicant
B-40, LGF, South Extension-II
New Delhi-110049

PLACE: NEW DELHI

DATED: 17.12.2025

Mobile No.:+91-9868280166

E-mail id:sshooda65@gmail.com

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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
WESTERN ZONAL BENCH AT PUNE

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 02 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

Shri Ashutosh Kumar ...Applicant

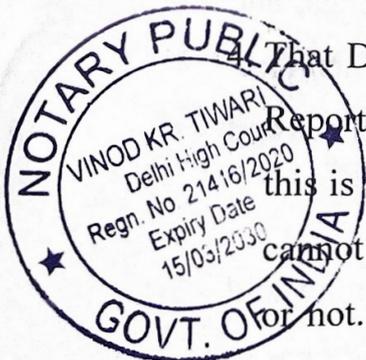
VERSUS

Gujarat Fluorochemicals Ltd. & Ors. ...Respondents

REJOINDER ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT TO
REPLY FILED BY RESPONDENT NO. 3

I, Ashutosh Kumar, S/o Dr. Rameshbhai Mishra, aged about 40 years, R/o Flat No. 6, Ambika Residency, Dindoli Surat-394210, Gujarat, presently at New Delhi, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under;

1. That I am the Applicant in the present case and therefore competent to affirm the present Affidavit.
2. That the Applicant has already filed a Rejoinder to the Reply filed by the Respondent No. 1 and the Report filed by the Joint Committee.
3. That one Shri A.U. Vekariya, Assistant Director (Chemicals) has given an opinion based on which Inspection Note dated 10.01.2025 was issued to the Respondent No. 1 and initially this document was not on record.



That DISH has filed certain additional documents in which a Report dated 06.01.2025 is present, the Applicant presumes that this is the Report of Shri A.U. Vekariya, though the Applicant cannot say it with 100% certainty whether this is the document or not. That the Applicant further prays that if this is not the document, DISH may be directed to place the same on record.

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5. That in this Inspection Report dated 06.01.2025, it is opined that the mixture of chloromethane, dichloromethane, HCL, chloroform has highly toxic, flammable and corrosive properties and due to such corrosive properties, there is a risk of mechanical integrity damage in the pipeline and fittings. Due to corrosion in the nut-bolt of the 8-inch plug valve in the pipeline between Condenser E2207 and Receiver V2204, due to damaging of its mechanical integrity, and due to mixture in the plug valve due to shear stress as the operating pressure of the system was 9 to 9.5 kg/cm², a mixture of Chloromethane, Dichloromethane, HCL, Chloroform has spread at the workplace and its toxic exposure has resulted into a fatal accident. A Translated Copy of the Assistant Director (Chemicals) Opinion dated 06.01.2025 is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure A**.
6. That the DISH has also filed an English translation of Inspection Note dated 10.01.2025 in compliance of the previous order which is also being annexed herewith for ready reference. A Translated Copy of the DISH's Inspection Note dated 10.01.2025 is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure B**.
7. That from the Opinion, it is writ large that the corrosive nature of the chemicals used in the processes, there is a risk of mechanical integrity damage in the pipeline and fittings, and which can lead to accidents such as the present one. Therefore, there is a special need to monitor and inspect such pipelines and valves meticulously.

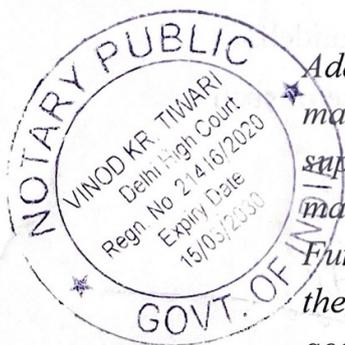
Further, as per the Rule 10(6) of the Manufacture, Storage, and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989, safety audit has to



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be done once a year. As per the Respondent No. 1's own Reply and documents, the Safety Audit was carried out in July 2023 and was due in July 2024, but ostensibly, no Safety Audit has been carried out in July 2024 despite the Auditor himself endorsing in the Report that next Audit will be due in July 2024. (Ann. R1/2, pg. 985)

9. The next Safety Audit Report is dated 01.02.2025 for an audit which was conducted on 16th-18th December 2024 (as per the Report), and the Audit Certificate is at pg. 1134.
10. That Respondent No. 1 failed to conduct timely audit thereby committed a breach of the MSIHC Rules. Further, it will not be out of the realm of possibility to state that timely audit may have led to the identification of the defect which caused the accident.
11. Further, the Opinion of the expert which says that the corrosive nature of the chemicals used in the processes, there is a risk of mechanical integrity damage in the pipeline and fittings is at complete variance with what has been stated by the Representative of Resp. No. 1 during visit of the Joint Committee and the same is recorded at pg. 593 as under;



Additionally, the representative stated that the instruction manual pertaining to the maintenance of the valve, as supplied by the manufacturer, indicated that regular maintenance of the valve fittings was not required. Furthermore, there had been no prior incidents involving these valves, reinforcing the conclusion that this was an accidental and unexpected failure.

12. This variance begs the question as to whether the Respondent No. 1 was negligent in its conduct since the expert's Opinion specifically states due to the inherently corrosive nature of the

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chemicals used in the Plant, there is risk of mechanical integrity failure.

13. That further, on 10.09.2025, the Respondent No. 1's plant in Ranjitnagar, Ghoghamba, Distt. Panchmahal, Gujarat was a site of a gas leak incident which claimed 2 lives. A True Copy of the newspaper articles pertaining to the incident dated 10.09.2025 at GFL, Ranjitnagar, Ghoghamba, Distt. Panchmahal, Gujarat are annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure C**.
14. That the Applicant has also given details of certain other accidents pertaining to GFL in the OA. That the frequent recurring of such accidents in GFL factories leave no manner of doubt that they are operating in a negligent manner and stringent action ought to be taken against them including imposition of additional EDC. That although GPCB has imposed an EDC of Rs. 1 Crore on GFL, the basis for that amount has not been disclosed and GPCB has been directed to file an Affidavit to that effect which has not yet been filed.
15. The GPCB and DISH must consider the recurring pattern of such fatal accidents across Gujarat and issue binding guidelines so as to reduce and eventually eliminate the recurrence of such accidents.




DEPONENT

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VERIFICATION

Verified at New Delhi on this 17 DEC 2025 December 2025 that the contents of the Affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and no part of this Affidavit is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Identify the Deponent who has signed/put thumb impression in my presence

DEPONENT

CERTIFIED THAT THE DEPONENT
Shri/Smt./Km.....
S/o, W/o, D/o, Sh.....
Identified by Shri/Smt.....
has solemnly Attested before me at Delhi
on 17 DEC 2025 No.....
that the contents of the affidavit which
have been read Over & explained to him/her
are true & correct to his/her knowledge.

NOTARY



Annexure A

Director Industrial Safety and Health, Gujarat State
3rd Floor, Shram Bhavan, Next to Gun Forge, Rustom
Kama Marg, Khanpur, Ahmedabad-380001
Phone: 079-25502346, 25502349

No. DISH/H-Safety/Chemical/2025/15

Date: 06/01/2025

To,
The Deputy Director,
Industrial Safety and Health,
Bharuch

Subject: Regarding investigation of Accident

Name of the factory: GUJARAT FLUOROCHEMICALS LTD.
12/A, GIDC, DAHEJ, TA-VAGRA,
DIST-BHARUCH

With respect to the fatal accident occurred in the above factory on 28/12/2024, Mr. A. H. Meraiya, Asst. Director, Bharuch on 03/01/2025 for the investigation of accident. My clear opinion regarding the incident of accident is as follows.

Date of Accident : Date 28/12/2024 Time: Approx. 19.40 hrs.
Manufacturing plant : Chloromethane Plant - 1
Opinion :

In the Chloromethane Plant-1, due to equilibrium conditions in distillation column T2202, condenser E2207 and in condenser to receiver V2204, the operating pressure of the entire system gets maintained at 9 to 9.5 kg/cm² pressure. In the column, vapor line, condenser, condensate line and recovery vessel V2204, the mixture of Chloromethane, Dichloromethane, HCL, Chloroform remains in liquid form and in gas form and the topside temperature of the column is maintained at 85 to 95°C and the temperature in the pipeline between condenser E2207 and receiver V2204 is maintained at 24 to 30°C. On checking the DCS data for 12 hours prior to the time of the accident, no change was observed in the process parameters of the said process i.e. pressure and temperature. The mixture of chloromethane, dichloromethane, HCL, chloroform has highly toxic, flammable and corrosive properties. Due to corrosive properties, there is a risk of mechanical integrity damage in the pipeline and fittings. Due to corrosion in the nut-bolt of the 8 inch plug valve in the pipeline between Condenser E2207 and Receiver V2204, due to damaging of its mechanical integrity, and due to mechanical failure in the plug valve due to shear stress

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as the operating pressure of the system was 9 to 9.5 kg/cm², a mixture of Chloromethane, Dichloromethane, HCL, Chloroform has spread at the workplace and its toxic exposure has resulted into a fatal accident.



Sd/- Illegible
Asst. Director (Chemical)
Industrial Safety and Health
Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

Safe Workman-Safe Industry-Prosperous Gujarat

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. K. J." followed by a long horizontal stroke.

**Deputy Director
Industrial Safety and Health
Bharuch**



Annexure B

Deputy Director, Office of the Industrial Safety and Health,
Second floor, Multistory Building, Kanbivaga, Jilla Seva Sadan 2,
Beside Gayatrinagar, Bharuch-392001
Phone/Fax No. (02642) 240421 Email ID:
dydishbh@gmail.com

Date: 10/01/2025

To,
The Occupier/Manager,
Gujarat Fluorochemicals Limited,
Plot No.12/A, GIDC Dahej,
Ta. Vagra, District: Bharuch

- (1) On 28/12/2024 at about 7:40 p.m. vapor of CMS-Chloro Methane Superior Chemical got released and spread into the atmosphere by breaking the nut-bolt of the bonnet from the bonnet (manual valve) of the pipeline carrying the CMS-Chloro Methane superior chemical to the CMS-1 plant, wherein total 04 workmen named (1) Mr. Nitish Kumar Sugrimprasad, (2) Mr. Mahesh Nandlal, (3) Mr. Mudrika Thakorprasad Yadav, (4) Mr. Rajesh Kumar Sureshchandra Magnadiya died and two workmen (1) Chhelbihari Shahu and (2) Suryalal Shahu were injured. For the investigation thereof, the undersigned had visit jointly with Mr. V.A. Halvadiya, Assistant Director, Industrial Safety and Health, Bharuch on 29/12/2024, and for further investigation the undersigned visited with Mr. R.A. Patel, Joint Director, Industrial Safety and Health, Surat Region, Surat and Shri A.H. Meraiya, Industrial Safety and Health Officer, Bharuch on 30/12/2024, with Mr. A.H. Meraiya, Industrial Safety and Health Officer, Bharuch and Mr. A.U. Vekariya, Assistant Director (Chemical), Industrial Safety and Health Chemical, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad on 03/01/2025, with Mr. A.H. Meraiya, Industrial Safety and Health Officer, Bharuch on 07/01/2025, with Mr. A.H. Meraiya, Industrial Safety and Health Officer, Bharuch on 08/01/2025 and with Mr. R.A. Patel, Joint Director, Industrial Safety and Health, Surat Region, Surat on 10/01/2025.
- (2) By employing total 4348 workmen in the said factory, work of production of PTFE, ETFEE, HFC-125, Caustic Soda, HFP, TFA DMA, HCFC-225, FKM, PFA, PVDF, FEP, VDF, DCTFMA, Methylene Dichloride, Chloroform, Carbon Tetrachloride, Sulphuric Acid, Hydrochloric Acid etc. gets carried out by using TFE, Initiator, Sodium Ethoxide, Tetrafluoroethylene, AHF, Methanol, Chlorine, Acetone, Sulphuric Acid, Hydrochloric Acid, Salt, Sodium Carbonate, Soda Ash, Tetraflouro Ethylene, R-21, HFP, VDF, TFE, PPVE, R-142b, KSM, Sulfolane, Ammonia, Copper Acetate, Copper powder etc. It is process of production as per Section-2(k) of the Factories Act, 1948. The factory is eligible under the Factories Act, 1948 and the factory is registered under Section-2(M)(1) of the Factories Act, 1948. License



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No. 15074 of the factory has been renewed for 5000 workers and 5000 Horse Power up to the year 2025. Plan of the factory has been sanctioned vide Plan No. DIR/IS & H/F-PLAN/2019/1341 dtd. 16/05/2019. The Stability Certificate of the factory has been obtained from the competent person Mr. H. Z. Gami (B.E.CIVIL) on 14/08/2019.

- (3) On visit of the place for the investigation of incident of spreading of vapour of CMS Chemical into the atmosphere by breaking the nut-bolt of the bonnet from the bonnet (manual valve) of the pressurized pipeline carrying the CMS-Chloro Methane superior chemical to the CMS-1 plant, Accident Form No. 29, Form No. 21, Photographs, Written statements of witnesses, Police Panchnama, Opinion of Mr. A. U. Vekariya, Assistant Director (Chemicals), Industrial Safety and Health Chemical, Ahmedabad regarding incident of accident, written statements of workmen, trends obtained for the distributed control system of the factory, following facts have come to know with respect to accident.

- (4) Description of the accident:

Process of production of PTFE, ETFEE, HFC-125, Caustic Soda, HFP, TFA DMA, HCFC-225, FKM, PFA, PVDF, FEP, VDF, DCTFMA, Methylene Dichloride, Chloroform, Carbon Tetrachloride, Sulphuric Acid, Hydrochloric Acid etc. gets carried out by using TFE, Initiator, Sodium Ethoxide, Tetrafluoroethylene, AHF, Methanol, Chlorine, Acetone, Sulphuric Acid, Hydrochloric Acid, Salt, Sodium Carbonate, Soda Ash, Tetraflouro Ethylene, R-21, HFP, VDF, TFE, PPVE, R-142b, KSM, Sulfolane, Ammonia, Copper Acetate, Copper powder etc.

On seeking opinion of A.U. Vekaria, Assistant Director (Chemicals), Industrial Safety and Health Chemicals, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad, regarding this accident, after carrying out investigation of place, following facts have come to know.

Process of production of MDC (Methylene Dichloride), Chloroform, Carbon Tetrachloride, Sulfuric Acid (98%) and HCL (31%) gets carried out in the Chloromethane Superior CMS-1 plant by using the Methanol, Chlorine, Acetone, Sulfuric Acid (98%), Hydrochloric Acid etc.

In the Chloromethane Plant-1 in the factory, due to equilibrium conditions in distillation column T2202, condenser E2207 and condenser to receiver V2204, the operating pressure of the entire system is maintained at 9 to 9.5 kg/cm². The mixture of chloromethane, dichloromethane, HCL, chloroform remains in the column, vapor line, condenser, condensate line and recovery vessel V2204 in the liquid form and in gas form and the topside temperature of the column is maintained at 85 to 95°C and the temperature in the pipeline between condenser E2207 to Receiver V2204 is maintained at



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24 to 30°C. On checking the DCS data for 12 hours prior to accident, no change was found in the process parameters of the said process i.e. pressure and temperature. The mixture of chloromethane, dichloromethane, HCL, chloroform has highly toxic, flammable and corrosive properties. Due to corrosive properties, there is a risk of mechanical integrity damage in the pipeline and fittings. Due to corrosion in the nut-bolt of the 8 inch plug valve in the pipeline between condenser E2207 and receiver V2204, its mechanical integrity was damaged and due to mechanical failure in the plug valve due to shear stress as the operating pressure of the system was 9 to 9.5 kg/cm², the mixture of chloromethane, dichloromethane, HCL, chloroform got spread at the workplace and toxic exposure thereof has resulted into a fatal accident.

In the factory, on 28/12/2024, when the production process was going on in the CMS-1 plant, the G-section of the CMS-1 plant, wherein the crude CMS gases coming from the Thermal Reactor, gets sent to the Recycle Column. In the Recycle Column, heavy crude CMS and light crude CMS gets separated. Out of which, heavy crude CMS is sent to the Distillation Section for further processing for making MDC and other products. While the light crude CMS is sent back to the reactor for recycling from the column. When the process of recycling intermediate methyl chloride and MDC was going on in the column of the G-section of the CMS-1 plant, the temperature in the pipeline between condenser E2207 and receiver V2204 gets maintained at 24 to 30°C. There is an 8 inch carbon steel plug valve (bonnet valve) in the pipeline from condenser E2207 to receiver V2204. On inspection of the said valve, due to mechanical failure of the nut-bolt of this 8 inch carbon steel plug valve (bonnet valve), the PTFE body of the said valve has come out of the bonnet, due to which CMS gas (mixture of 85% MDC (Methylene Dichloride), 1% HCL and Carbon Tetrachloride, 13% Methyl Chloride, Chloroform and other gases) got spread at the work place area and it formed vapor cloud.

Workman Mr. Sanjivbhai Makasana heard an abnormal sound at around 07:40 hrs. in the factory. So, while looking at the DCS system, he saw the reading of PT (pressure transmitter) as decreasing by 3 numbers in the top of the Recycle Column (T-2202). In normal circumstances, the reading of the PT (pressure transmitter) at the top of T-2202 remains 9.2 kg/cm². In the beginning, as early as Mr. Sanjivbhai Makasana saw the pressure getting decreased from 9.2 kg/cm² to 9.1 kg/cm², Mr. Sanjivbhai Makasana immediately started the process of taking safe shutdown of the CMS-1 plant, for which he shut down the Chlorine Steam, isolated the chlorine isolation valve FV-2203, PV-2201 isolation valve, isolated the steam from the recycle column T-2202, etc., and shut down the plant safely.

The said CMS gas (85% MDC (Methylene Dichloride), 1% HCL and Carbon Tetrachloride, 13% Methyl Chloride, Chloroform and other gases) got spread at the workplace area and formed a vapor cloud, due



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to which toxic exposure of the workmen working nearby (1) Mr. Suchitkumar Sugrimprasad, (2) Mr. Mahesh Nandalal, (3) Mr. Mudrika Thakorprasad Yadav, who were engaged in the work of painting and scaffolding erection, and (4) Mr. Rajeshkumar Sureshchandra Magnadia, who was engaged in the work of Utility operation, died due to toxic exposure to CMS gas and two workmen (1) Chhelbihari Shahu and (2) Suryalal Shahu, who were working as riggers in TAP-1 utility plant of the factory, also had difficulty in breathing.

Due to the said leakage of gas, the operator was shifted to OHC and the workmen working on Scaffolding near Thermal B section (1) Mr. Suchitkumar Sugrimprasad, (2) Mr. Mahesh Nandalal, (3) Mr. Mudrika Thakorprasad Yadav and (4) Mr. Rajeshkumar Sureshchandra Magnadiya (Utility Operation) were brought to OHC by ambulance. Thereafter, they were shifted to the Word Wizard Hospital-Dahej and then as per the recommendation of the doctors present at the hospital, the patients were immediately shifted to the 7 Star Multispecialty Hospital-Bharuch, where during the treatment, Mr. Rajeshkumar Sureshchandra Magnadiya (aged 48) were declared as dead on 29/12/2024 at 01:54 pm, Mr. Mithi Kumar Sugrimprasad (aged 39) died on 29/12/2024 at 01:56 pm, Mr. Mahesh Nandlal (aged 25) died on 29/12/2024 at 02:21 pm and Mr. Mudrika Thakorprasad Yadav (aged 30) died on 29/12/2024 at 06:01 am by the doctors present on duty. And the workmen (1) Chhelbihari Shahu and (2) Suryalal Shahu were discharged by the Doctor present on duty on completion of treatment from the Hospital at Bharuch on 29/12/2024 at 18:00 pm and on 31/12/2024 respectively.

(5) Breach of law:

The aforesaid fatal accident took place in the factory on 21/12/2024 at about 07:40 pm and total of 04 workmen died and two workers were injured in this accident. The investigation team visited the factory and on personally carrying out inspection of the accident site, on 28/12/2024 at 07:40 pm, there is a plug valve (bonnet valve) of the pipeline between Condenser E-2207 and Receiver V-2204 lying in the G-section of CMS-1 plant, which is of the size of 8 inch and made up of carbon steel material, having diaphragm made up of PTFE (Poly Tetra Fluoro Ethylene) material and having the fasteners with this valve coated with PTFE. From the said valve and pipeline, CMS gas mixture (85% MDC (Methylene Dichloride), 1% HCL and Carbon Tetrachloride, 13% Methyl Chloride, Chloroform and other gas mixture) gets transported, and CMS vapor circulates in it under pressure. This CMS is a corrosive type of material. There are chances of corrosion in this valve and its fasteners. In this incident, due to damage of the mechanical integrity of the 8 inch plug valve in the pipeline between condenser E-2207 and receiver V-2204 in G-section of CMS-1 plant due to corrosion in the nut-bolt and the pressure of



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this system remains at 9 to 9.4 kg/cm². Therefore, failure of the said carbon steel 8 inch size plug valve (bonnet valve) occurred, due to which the mixture of CMS got spread at the workplace area and formed a vapor cloud. In this accident, due to the said toxic exposure, the workmen working nearby (1) Mr. Suchitkumar Sugrimprasad, (2) Mr. Mahesh Nandalal, (3) Mr. Mudrika Thakorprasad Yadav, (4) Mr. Rajesh Kumar Sureshchandra Magnadiya died, and the workmen working in the nearby TAP-1 utility plant (1) Chhelbihari Shahu and (2) Suryalal Shahu were injured. If the said plug valve (bonnet valve) had been operated safely and without causing any harm to health, the fatal accident that befell the above four workmen could have been prevented.

Thus, on 28/12/2024 at about 07:40 PM, due to failure in the 8 inch size of plug valve (bonnet valve) located in the G Section of the CMS-1 plant of the factory, a toxic vapor cloud was formed in the atmosphere of the CMS factory, resulted into the death of the workmen. The occupier/manager of the factory, by not maintaining the 8 inch carbon steel plug valve (bonnet valve) in the pipeline between condenser E-2207 to receiver V-2204 in G-section of CMS-1 plant in the factory, which is used in the process of CMS having toxic corrosive and flammable properties, in a safe and health conscious manner, and by continuing the production process in G-section of this CMS-1 plant of the factory, the occupier/manager of the factory has committed breach of provisions of Section-7(A)2(A) of the Factories Act, 1948.

- (6) The following precautionary measures are advised to be taken in the factory to prevent such incident from happening in the future.
 - (i) Such pipelines, valves and other parts connected to the said process be maintained in efficient condition in order to prevent recurrence of such an incident.
- (7) The attendance sheet of Workmen (1) Mr. Suchitkumar Sugrimprasad, (2) Mr. Mahesh Nandalal, (3) Mr. Mudrika Thakorprasad Yadav, (4) Mr. Rajeshkumar Sureshchandra Magnadiya for the month of December-2024 in Form No. 28 shall be preserved and presented, if required.
- (8) The Form of Accident in Form No. 29 showing the particulars of fatal accident suffered by the following workmen (1) Mr. Suchitkumar Sugrimprasad, (2) Mr. Mahesh Nandalal, (3) Mr. Mudrika Thakorprasad Yadav, (4) Mr. Rajeshkumar Sureshchandra Magnadiya be preserved and produced, if required.
- (9) Salary Register showing the details of salary of the workmen (1) Mr. Suchitkumar Sugrimprasad, (2) Mr. Mahesh Nandalal, (3) Mr.

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Mudrika Thakorprasad Yadav, (4) Mr. Rajeshkumar Sureshchandra Magnadiya, for the month of December-2024 be preserved and produced, if required.

- (10) Form of Accident in Form No. 29, Form No. 21, Photographs, CCTV, DCS system report, copy of Stability Certificate have been obtained from the occupier of Factory. All these original documents be preserved and presented, if required.
- (11) It seems from the record that, the information of fatal accident occurred to the workmen in December-2024 was given in Form No. 21 dtd. 30/12/2024.
- (12) Due Salary, privilege leave and other dues of the workmen for December-2024 be paid to their legal heirs and information thereof be given in writing with proof.
- (13) If the workmen are registered in ESIC in December-2024, details of the pension paid under ESIC to the legal heirs of the workmen, be produced, and if they are not registered under ESIC, arrangement be made to pay it to the heirs of workmen under W.C. at the earliest.
- (14) At the time of our visit to the factory, Mr. Dr. Sunil Bhatt, Factory Manager, is present. And as said by him, the occupant of the factory is Mr. Sanathkumar Muppirala. In case of any change therein, please submit an explanation in writing along with evidence within 7 days.
- (15) If you have any explanation regarding violation of law mentioned in the above Remark No. 5, please submit it in writing to our office in two copies along with the evidence within 3 days and submit a report by completing the suggestions mentioned in Remark No. 6 and inform us by inserting these remarks in the Visit Book in Form No. 31.

Sd/- Illegible
(Ms. J. J. Chauhan)
Factory Inspector and
Deputy Director,
Industrial Safety and Health,
Bharuch


Deputy Director
Industrial Safety and Health
Bharuch



One dead, 12 hospitalised after toxic gas leak at Gujarat Fluoro Chemical Company

Dilip Singh Kshatriya

Gujarat Fluoro Chemical Company (GFL) in Ranjitnagar, Ghoghamba taluka of Panchmahal district, Gujarat
Photo | Special Arrangement

Updated on:

10 Sep 2025, 6:59 pm

2 min read

AHMEDABAD: In an industrial mishap, a toxic gas leak at the Gujarat Fluoro Chemical Company (GFL) in Ranjitnagar, Ghoghamba taluka of Panchmahal district, Gujarat, left 12 workers hospitalised and claimed one life.

Initial reports of a “boiler blast” caused widespread panic, but authorities later confirmed that no explosion had occurred—only a sudden leak of hazardous gas.

The incident took place between 12:00 and 12:30 pm when R-32 gas, a refrigerant commonly used in air conditioners, escaped from a pipeline inside the plant. Workers quickly experienced nausea, dizziness, and vomiting.

The company's in-house health team immediately administered antidotes and shifted them to hospitals in Halol, while five critically affected workers were later moved to Vadodara for specialised treatment. Despite the rapid response, one worker succumbed to the gas exposure.

District Superintendent of Police Haresh Dudhat, who rushed to the site to inspect the plant, dispelled rumours of a boiler explosion. "There was no explosion, as some messages are claiming. The incident was caused by an R-32 gas leak from a pipeline. This gas, commonly used in air conditioners, led to nausea and vomiting among some workers," SP Dudhat said. He confirmed that 12 workers were hospitalised, with one fatality reported so far.

"The affected workers were first treated at the company's occupational health centre, where they were given an antidote, and then immediately referred to hospitals in Halol," he added. Praising the company's swift response, SP Dudhat noted that sprinklers and emergency procedures were activated promptly, bringing the leakage under control. "We are standing here without masks to assure the public there is no danger now, and no need to panic," he emphasised.

Company officials corroborated this account. Anil Vijay Killari, Deputy Unit Head at GFL, said the leak was contained within 15–20 seconds but affected 10–12 workers.

"Our safety and environment teams are investigating the exact cause of the leak. As a precaution, the entire plant has been shut down. Villagers were informed immediately, and many of them came forward to help

during the emergency,” Killari stated.

Local police and health department teams rushed to the scene as soon as the incident was reported. Villagers living near the plant were evacuated as a precautionary measure. Authorities are now awaiting a medical report to confirm the exact cause of death.

SP Dudhat said that a thorough investigation is underway to determine how the R-32 gas escaped the pipeline and to ensure such an incident does not occur again.

This incident has reignited concerns over industrial safety protocols in Gujarat, especially in plants handling hazardous chemicals, raising urgent questions about preventive measures and rapid response mechanisms.

Second death in GFL gas leak incident

The Times Of India



Vadodara: Another man injured in the gas leak at Gujarat Fluorochemicals Ltd (GFL) in Panchmahal district died during treatment on Friday, taking the death toll in the incident to two. The leakage occurred around noon on Wednesday at GFL's Ranjitnagar plant in Ghoghamba taluka. A priest, Haresh Vyas, who regularly visited the plant temple, had died on the same day, while 13 others were rushed to hospitals in Halol and Vadodara. Eleven were admitted to Bhailal Amin General Hospital (BAGH) and two to BAPS Hospital. On Friday morning, Sanjay Mahida (35), a GFL worker, succumbed at BAGH. His brother, Dilawarsinh Mahida, said Sanjay had been in the ICU on ventilator support since admission. Originally from Anand, Sanjay lived in Vadodara with his wife and daughter. The leakage occurred in the unit involved in manufacturing refrigerant gas. Sanjay, who worked in the laboratory of the plant, was on duty when the incident took place. The gas was identified as R32, used in air-conditioners with limited other applications.



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OA 2 of 2025 - Shri Ashutosh Kumar v. Gujarat Flurochemicals Ltd. & Ors.

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Wed, Dec 17, 2025
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Sir/Ma'am,

PFA the Rejoinder on behalf of the Applicant to the Reply by
DISH in the captioned matter.

Warm Regards,
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 **AK v GFL Rejoinder 2.pdf**
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